

**Three Years Later  
9/11 Revisited**



The youngest generation will have September 11 as a major backdrop for their unfolding years. How they incorporate the information from this event will contribute to their development just as the Cold War and World War II influenced their parents and grandparents respectively.

Three years later children reflect on-going concerns. The continued war on terrorism, issues of homeland security and unimagined violence, such as the school hostage crisis in Russia, take hold. Students speak on poignant themes including:

- Patriotism and a keen interest in democracy;
- Questions to God about the meaning of cruelty and evil;
- Interest in everyday heroes and in giving back to community;
- A desire to find good leaders who will protect the next generation;
- Renewed respect for family and neighborhood;
- Questions regarding the hows, whys and whether children are currently safe; and
- A compelling concern that war is the new backdrop for daily life today as well as the future.

The Commission has followed the youngest generation's response to terrorism. We seek to know how children and youth are impacted by current events and how this current international backdrop of homeland security touches their sense of hope, choice or action.

Connecticut was the only state in the nation to pass legislation regarding children and homeland security. Special Act No. 02-8, *An Act Concerning Civil Preparedness and the Needs of Children*, required the state to look at the explicit needs of children in homeland security related to health and mental health, public education and communications for families, training in school safety and security measures and opportunities for youth to engage in community service and civic activities that provide cultural diversity experiences. For copies of the report in response to Special Act 02-8, entitled *Child Safety and Crisis Response*, contact the Office of Policy and Management.

In a continued commitment to listen to children and youth regarding current events, please find a brief summary of quotes from Connecticut children during the 2004 year.

Respectfully,

Elaine Zimmerman  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Commission on Children



Through art and writing, students responded to September 11, 2001. Their work was exhibited at the State Capitol, Hartford, Connecticut in 2001, 2002, and 2003. Students read their works, discussed the art and were interviewed. CT.N documented the events. ©COC 2004

For more information, contact the Connecticut Commission on Children, 18-20 Trinity Street, Hartford, CT 06106; 860-240-0290; [www.cga.state.ct.us/coc/](http://www.cga.state.ct.us/coc/)

Are terrorists around every  
corner ready to get you?

Ashley McCann, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

They ripped up the stitches  
of America's seam.

Julia Kelley, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

**All I want to know is why???**  
**Why people die??**  
**Why people hate??**  
**Why over so much love**  
**there is so much hate?**

Amber Perry, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

I felt like I was in an ocean of prayers,  
With the array of sympathy  
From many mourners.  
A flag should be placed over your chest,  
To pray for all of our fallen guests.

Justin Nelson, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

There is not a plane that goes by  
That doesn't make me think  
Of September 11<sup>th</sup>.  
I like it that way!  
It keeps us aware of the  
Everyday heroes in our lives.

Hannah Ojard, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

EVERYDAY HEROES  
ARE HIDDEN IN EVERYDAY  
PEOPLE.  
SO BRING THE HERO OUT IN  
YOU.

Danielle Tilley, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

*Could it happen again and  
could it be my life gone  
Next time?*

Brendin Beaulieu-Jones, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

I wish there would be World peace  
As well as many other people,  
But I just don't think  
It's going to happen.

Nick Ferruolo, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

I hate to go  
On planes,  
I wonder if people  
are good or bad.

Anthony Steady, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

I've learned that I live in a  
country of all heroes and  
survivors.

Adam Dailey, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

My mom thought that  
If she donated money to the poor  
It could help.  
She never  
Did those kinds of things before.

Katelyn Young, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Heroes are everywhere,  
They are even in the air.

Marcos Beltran, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Please mommies and daddies  
Lift your blankets up high  
Tuck us under your capes  
Where everything is fine.**

Mariah Kane, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Maybe kids could  
Start at their schools  
And help with the little things  
Like watching out for fights.  
It would be like “school peace”.

Ashli Hastings, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

I wonder if some children are  
hurt inside.  
I wonder if I’m going to be an  
American every day.

Janet Camacho, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Handling this tragedy has  
made a better citizen out of  
you and me.**

Roberta Delvy, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Somebody should take action,  
Society has gone amiss.  
Somebody should take action,  
Before we all forget  
What life was like before this.

Alex Millan, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

THINK OF THE PEOPLE  
WHO MADE IT A LESS  
TRAGIC DAY.  
AND REMEMBER YOU  
CAN BE A HERO TOO.

Tess O'Malley, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

I miss Mr. Marx because  
he went away to save  
people.

Selena Stephenson, 1<sup>st</sup> grade

My dad goes to sea  
To fight for our country.  
I used to be mad at him  
When he left,  
But now I am angry with myself  
For being mad at him.

Alyssa Watterlond, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

All we need to do is put our fears aside,  
Find that inner strength  
To know what is right and  
Know what we need to do.  
When we believe in ourselves,  
Never lose hope,  
Then, we become strong,  
And we are heroes.

Michael D'Elia, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Hate can kill,  
Hate can hurt,  
Hate can discriminate,  
And hate can make you cry.

Harris Omar Niazi, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Fighting against evil,  
Fighting for a right,  
Giving people one last chance  
To gather and unite.

Krystelle Cino, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

The shades were pulled on my normal life  
Now only fear runs through my veins.

Jennifer Sakal, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

It's time for angels  
To jump from windows for  
Mortal's sakes.

Hannah Plotke, 10<sup>th</sup> grade



All the people who died  
May not have a portrait  
Or grave to remember them  
by,  
But they will always have  
A place in our hearts.

Peter Timbrell, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

In just a few hours, our  
lives completely changed,  
and we will never forget.

Kelly Cocco, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

With the world in turmoil from sea  
to sea,  
Will we ever have peace for  
eternity?

Amanda Messino, 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Will there be many wars and battles  
Between the world and men?  
Will the world ever see peace again?

Aubrey Wank, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Why do we feel the  
emptiness inside?

Greta Waag, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Adults need to be reminded that  
The world is just not a place  
For them to be angry at one  
another.  
We live here too  
And future generations will  
come.

Winston Allen, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

We don't have to be  
Part of the government  
To share our ideas,  
We just have to be patient  
And respect ourselves.

Rachel Berger, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Do you think we will be fighting forever  
Or at least until the earth crumbles  
Into pieces from the sadness of the  
people?

Greta Waag, 6<sup>th</sup> grade